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## AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) A method for preventing T cell mediated tissue destruction associated with type I diabetes comprising administering to a subject in need of such treatment a prophylactically effective amount of a gp39 antagonist selected from the group consisting of soluble CD40, CD40 fusion protein, and an anti-gp39 antibody, or a fragment thereof that binds gp39, wherein the anti-gp39 antibody or fragment binds to an epitope which is specifically bound by a monoclonal antibody produced by 24-31 hybridoma, ATCC Accession Number HB 11712, further wherein the tissue destruction results from a T cell mediated immune reaction to one or more autoantigens an autoantigen.

## 2-4. (Canceled)

- 5. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the gp39 antagonist is an anti-gp39 antibody.
- 6. (Previously presented) The method of claim 5, wherein the anti-gp39 antibody is a monoclonal antibody.
- 7. (Previously presented) The method of claim 5, wherein the anti-gp39 antibody is an anti-human gp39 antibody.
- 8. (Previously presented) The method of claim 6, wherein the monoclonal antibody is 24-31.
- 9. (Previously presented) The method of claim 6, wherein the monoclonal antibody is a chimeric monoclonal antibody containing constant regions and variable regions from different species.

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10. (Previously presented) The method of claim 6, wherein the monoclonal antibody is a humanized monoclonal antibody.

## 11. (Canceled)

- 12. (Currently amended) A method for preventing a T cell mediated autoimmune response associated with type I diabetes comprising administering to a subject in need of such treatment a prophylactically effective amount of a gp39 antagonist which is an antigp39 antibody or a gp39-binding fragment thereof, which antibody or fragment comprises a hypervariable region of monoclonal antibody 24-31 (ATCC Accession Number HB 11712).
- 13. (Previously presented) The method of claim 12, wherein the gp39 antagonist is a gp39-binding antibody fragment.
- 14. (Previously presented) The method of claim 13, wherein the gp39-binding antibody fragment is a Fab or F(ab')<sub>2</sub> fragment.

# 15-16. (Canceled)

17. (Currently amended) The method of claim 9, wherein the chimeric monoclonal anti-gp39 antibody comprises variable regions a variable region of monoclonal antibody 24-31.

### 18. (Canceled)

19. (Currently amended) The method of claim 10, wherein the humanized monoclonal anti-gp39 antibody comprises variable regions a hypervariable region of monoclonal antibody 24-31.

### 20-21. (Canceled)